INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

li tional Application No PCT/IB2004/051095

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H02M3/156 H02J H02J1/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) HO2M HO2J IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 5 875 104 A (PRAGER JAY) 1-6,18, 23 February 1999 (1999-02-23) 21,22 Y abstract 7-17,19, column 8, line 33 - line 40 from column 9, line 66 up to column 10, line 5 figures 1,5 X US 5 929 618 A (HOCK RICHARD H ET AL) 1,2,4 27 July 1999 (1999-07-27) the whole document column 4, line 21 - line 63 Υ US 6 157 182 A (TANAKA HIROTO ET AL) 7-17 5 December 2000 (2000-12-05) abstract column 5 - column 6 X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docudocument referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of malling of the international search report 4 November 2004 12/11/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Marannino, E.

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